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Date: December 7, 2004**Time:** _____ .m. (Minneapolis)**Number of pages (including this page):** 22 **F&B File No.:** 311766 **Rec.:** 993**From:** Tong Wu**Telephone Number:** 612/766-6804**To:** Priddy, Michael B.**Fax No.:** 703-872-9306

Art Unit: 3732

Phone No.: 703-305-3531

Patent & Trademark Office, Technology Center 3700

Inventor(s): JOHN J. GRABOWSKI et al.**Examiner:** Priddy, Michael B.**Appln. No.:** 09/939,523**Group Art Unit:** 3732**Filing Date:** August 24, 2001**Title:** BONE FIXATION DEVICE**Docket No.** 75028-311766

Documents attached: Reply (19 pages); Petition for Extension of Time (2 months) (1 page); Credit Card Payment Form (\$430)

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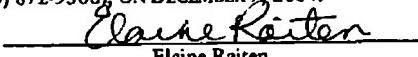
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): JOHN J. GRABOWSKI et al.	Examiner: Priddy, Michael B.
Appn. No.: 09/939,523	Group Art Unit: 3732
Filing Date: August 24, 2001	
Title: BONE FIXATION DEVICE	Docket No. 75028-311766

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Elaine Raiten

Elaine Raiten

REPLY

This Reply is responsive to the outstanding Office Action mailed July 8, 2004. A petition for a two-month time extension with appropriate fee is filed herewith. No additional fee is thought to be necessary. However, if any fee is required for entry of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account 06-0029 and is requested to notify us of the same. This Reply includes the following:

- **Amendments to the Specification** beginning on page 2 of this paper.
- **Amendments to the Claims** as reflected in the listing of claims beginning on page 3 of this paper.
- **Remarks** beginning on page 18 of this paper.